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CAMELFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Camelford Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1944, in accordance with Circular 49/45.

The health of the district has been fairly good throughout the year. The influenza epidemic which was declining at the turn of the year disappeared at the end of January. A spell of bad weather in May produced a widespread crop of colds and bronchitis and these diseases returned again during the winter.

It is gratifying to report that despite the presence of diphtheria in adjoining districts there was not a single case in our area. This is in large measure due to the immunisation campaign which was conducted as actively as before and now seems to have gained from the public the enthusiasm it undoubtedly deserves. I hope this good work will continue.

Social conditions and general characteristics.

These are much as in previous reports and no further reference will be made under this heading.

Population :	1921	...	7730
	1931	...	7550
	1941	...	8412
	1943	...	7981
	1944	...	7830

Total rateable value — 1944 (December) £36,690.

Total penny rate product 1943-4 — £94 6s. 8d.

" " 1944-5 — £158 15s. 1d.

Vital statistics.

		Male	Female
DEATHS.	All causes	53	44
	Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1
	Syphilitic Disease	1	—
	Cancer of uterus	—	4
	" " stomach & duodenum	1	3
	" " breast	—	2
	" " other sites	5	6
	Diabetes	1	1
	Intracran. vasc. lesions	5	8
	Heart Disease	17	9
	Other circulatory diseases	3	2
	Pneumonia	5	1
	Bronchitis	2	1
	Other Respiratory diseases	2	1
	Other Digestive diseases	—	1
	Premature births	2	—
	Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	1	1
	Suicide	—	1
	Other violent causes	—	1
	All other causes	7	6
	Total	97	
	Death Rate per 1000 of population	12.5	

		M.		F.
Live Births	Legitimate	66		55
	Illegitimate	11		3
	Total		135	
	Birth rate per 1000 of population		17	
Still Births	Legitimate	2		1
	Illegitimate		Nil	
	Total		3	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Legitimate	4		—
	Illegitimate	1		1
	Total		6	
	Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births		44	

Water Supply.

Camelford, Boscastle and a part of St. Breward are supplied from the Council's mains and the other part of St. Breward by the Bodmin Water Co. Tintagel, Delabole and St. Teath derive their supplies from the North Cornwall Joint Water Board. Treligga, Trevalga, Treveighan and Churchtown, Michaelstow, have their own supplies and the remainder of the district is principally supplied by wells.

It was recognition that the water supply of the Rural District was inadequate for modern needs which prompted the Council to have a survey made. The Consulting Engineers have now completed their work and their report welcomed and formally adopted by the Council. It is to be hoped that action on it will not be long delayed.

Analysis of all the main supplies are satisfactory :—

ST. BREWARD AND CAMELFORD.—The water is of excellent purity and its nature and character remain constant.

BOSCASTLE.—The purity is satisfactory in all respects.

NORTH CORNWALL JOINT WATER BOARD.—The purity is satisfactory in all respects.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Conditions in some parts of the district are extremely bad. Sewerage schemes are urgently required in Delabole, St. Teath, Tintagel, Boscastle and St. Breward. Enlargement and improvements of the existing Camelford Scheme are likewise very necessary. These bad conditions have persisted for some considerable time and should be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Housing.

Housing has been more or less at a standstill during the War, though under the Agricultural Housing Scheme six houses have been completed of the eight allocated to the district and the remaining two are nearing completion. These houses are let at a rental of 7/6 per week.

It is to be hoped that now the War has ended housing will be given the urgent priority it deserves. The Council's programme is for 112 houses in the first two post-war years. This is only a first instalment but it will help to relieve the acute shortage. Completion and examination of the Housing Survey will make possible a more accurate estimate of the housing needs of the district.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1944.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Hospital Admission.	Total Deaths.
Chicken Pox	1	Nil	Nil
Dysentry	1	1	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	4	Nil	Nil
Measles	20	Nil	Nil
Meningitis	1	1	Nil
Opthalmia Neonatorum	2	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	7	Nil	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	5	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	24	Nil	Nil

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TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5			1					
15								
25		1				1		
35								
45			1					
55								
65 and upwards ...	2				1			
Totals	2	1	2		1	1		

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Joseph Shugleth

Rock House, Delabole, 8th October, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.